

$\phi$  = less than 20 ppm of an anionic species; and  
at least one stabilizer for inhibiting formation of the lactam, the dosage form  
exhibiting improved stability.

70. (New) The stable pharmaceutical formulation of claim 65 wherein the amino acid is gabapentin.

71. (New) The stable pharmaceutical formulation of claim 65 further comprising one or more adjuvants.

AI 72. (New) The stable pharmaceutical formulation of claim 65 wherein said stable pharmaceutical formulation contains less than 2% by weight of a degradation product of the amino acid after being maintained for 3 months at 40 degrees Centigrade and 75% relative humidity.

73. (New) The stable pharmaceutical formulation of claim 65 wherein said stabilizer is a liquid with a dielectric constant below 60.

#### REMARKS

Claims 1-64 were pending.

New claims 65-73 have been added to reflect that the invention contemplates formulations comprising at least one amino acid, less than 20 ppm of anionic species, and at least one stabilizer, and processes for forming such formulations. Support for new claims 65-73 can be found throughout the specification an claims as originally filed including, for example, in paragraph no. 42, second line; in Table 2, second row corresponding to Examples 4 & 7; in paragraph no. 45, lines 2-3; in paragraph no. 47, lines 3-6; in paragraph no. 56, lines 5-6; and in paragraph no. 58, lines 7-8.

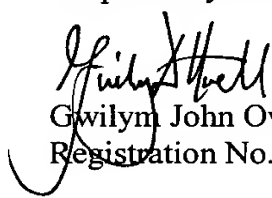
No new matter has been added.

**MPCI-0033**

**PATENT**

Upon entry of the foregoing preliminary amendments, claims 1-73 will be pending.  
Consideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Gwilym John Owen Attwell  
Registration No. 45,449

Date: September 25, 2001

WOODCOCK WASHBURN KURTZ  
MACKIEWICZ & NORRIS LLP  
One Liberty Place - 46<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
(215) 568-3100